

4/ Nevvs from the Sessions.

Or, The Whole

TRYAL

OF

GEORGE ALLEN

THE

BUTCHER

Who Murthered his Wife in the Fields
behind *Islington*, On *Friday* the 5th. of
this Instant *February*, And the
manner how the same came to
be Discovered.

As also the Full Tryal of *John Harter* the
Oastler, for stealing an Horse, and an Hundred and Twenty Pounds
of Money. For which he is Convicted of Felony.

With the Tryals of several other Malefactors,
for divers Notorious Crimes, and other remarkable passages at the
Sessions begun at Justice-Hall in the Old Bayly, the 19th. of *Febr.* 1677.

52 Printed for George Smith, 1675.

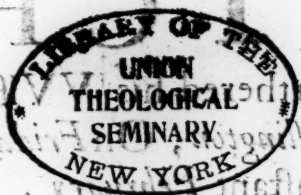
News from the Sessions.

Or, The Whole

TRIAL

OF

BUTCHER



Who Murthered in the Fields
behind the City of
this Instance. And the

manner how the same came to
be Discovered.

As also the Full Trial of John Hunter the
Gutter, for stealing an Horse, and an Hundred and Twenty Pounds
of Money, for which he is Convicted of Felony.

With the Trials of several other Malefactors,
for divers Notorious Crimes, and other remarkable passages.
Sessions begun at Justice-Hall in the Old Bailey, the 10th of February.

Printed for George Smith, 167.

1675

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News from the Sessions, &c.

AT this Sessions for *London and Middlesex*, and Goal-delivery of *Newgate*, amongst many other Criminals of diverse kinds, *George Allen* for the heinousness of his barbarous crime, was sadly remarkable above others: Having not onely committed a bloody murder, but such as was aggravated to the highest degree, by being perpetrated on a poor innocent of the weaker sex, and the nearest Relation in the *V*World: This inhumane Fact was done on *Friday* the 5th. of this instant *February* in the Evening. In the Fields behind *Islington* (lately the bloody scene of several lamentable Tragedies, as that of the eminent Quaker who drown'd himself in *V*Wheelers-pond on Friday night the 12th. instant whose corps was not found till Thursday last, and another person since killed in a fray not far from thence. The manner how this *Allen* came to be suspected and discovered was thus. The murdered party his wife, and he had for a long time lived at difference, insomuch that she was forced to leave him, and return home to *Nxbridge* her native place, to live with her friends, and had lived from him there for about Two years: During which time he being by trade a Butcher, workt as journey-man with one of that profession in an Alley in *Turn-Mill-Street*; but the week before the murder committed he went down thither, and seeming very willing to be reconciled

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eiled by fair words prevailed with the woman's credulity and good nature to live with him again, promising for to use her as formerly for the future; and accordingly on Friday the fifth instant they came up together from thence to London, and arrived at *Grays Inn Lane* just as it began to be dark, but he pretending that his Lodging was a great way off, led her from thence round through *Hatton-Garden*, and so again into the fields, where he inveigled her along till they came as aforefaid behind *Islington*, near the *Gravel-pits*, and there carrying her pattins for her with one of them he knockt her on the head, and leaving her dead went home to his Lodging in *Turn-Mill-street*: next morning her body was found, and comming to strip her, in her stocking they found her wedding ring, which 'tis more than probable she had hid there, that he might not take it away from her, it being his usual custome formerly to plunder her of every thing of any value to supply his extravagancies. The rumour of a woman so found, who by all circumstances appear'd to have been murdered, spreading about the country, soon came to *Nxbridge* where her Father and Uncle were living, who no sooner heard it but they were struck with a kind of propheticall apprehension, that it might be this person murdered by her unnatural Husband. And therefore ordered a friend that was comming to London to inquire after it, who comming to *Islington* knew the slain persons cloaths, and thence concluding on violent presumptions that her husband must indeed have a hand in it, immediately procures a Warrant and apprehends him in *Newgate Market*, before the Justice

Justice of Peace, he absolutely denied all, and affirmed he parted with his Wife at *Grays-Inn-Lane* end, and since had neither seen nor known what was become of her. But being committed to Newgate, and forced (for he was very unwilling) to go to hear the Sermon there the next Lords day. It seems the same made some impression on his Spirit, for the next Day being closely examined, he confessed he did Kill her, and that the intention of the murder first entred into his heart as they were passing over *Hatton-Garden*, and that he did it with one of her Pattins, which was sufficiently proved now in Court, for notwithstanding such his acknowledgement at the Barr, he pleaded, *Not Guilty*: It was also proved by several persons from *Uxbridge*, that he had formerly attempted to Poyten her, and to that purpose had sent her several times Poyson, which once before had like to have cost her her life, and also that here in *London* he kept company, and was in League with another woman; whom he had promised Marriage, and appointed a day for that purpose: telling her, his wife in the Country had married another man; and therefore he was free to dispose of himself: yer being questioned, he now cleared that person, and affirmed that she neither instigated him, nor was privy to this Murther. There was likewise a letter produced and read, which he owned to be of his writing, it was dated on the Munday after the Fact, directed to his Wives Father (contrived on purpose to conceal his Guilt) for therein he acquainted them his wife was very well, and that he had taken a lit-

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the house, beyond *London*, at *Stratford, &c.* All which making his Murtherous intention so apparent he could nor at last deny that he Kill'd her, but said it, on provocation of ill Language, and that she tore him by the Hair, whereupon he did indeed strike her a blow with her Partin, and left her on the ground, but did not think to have Killed her; but being not able to give any account why he led her that way, at that time o'th night, his design was evident: Being askt what he had to say for himself, one of the Honourable Judges, no less Gravely then Religiously told him his Condition, required him rather to say much against himself, as being Guilty of so great and horrible a sin, of which he feared he was not sufficiently sensible: To which the Prisoner replied that indeed he was not sensible of it, and that he hoped that the Court would pity him: and so desired Transportation. But was told, that our Laws are more Just then to allow that favour to such bloody Criminals: so he was left to the Jury, who immediately brought him in Guilty of Murther.

There was also one *John Harter*, Endicted for Felony, his Case appeared on proof to be thus: a Gentleman of *Barkshire* usually lying at an Inn in *Old-Fish-street*, where this *John* was Oastler, being to go forth o'th Town early on Munday Morning, the 15th instant, desired him to get his Horse ready, which being done, he having One hundred and Twenty pounds to carry down with him, lays it on the Saddle, and then steps into his Chamber, or the Kitchen to fetch his Coat: Whilst he was gone, *John* having

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having notice of the Money, mounrs the Steed, and rides away with the Money directly to *Cash-wood*, where taking out so much of the Money as he thought fit for his present Occasion, which was to buy him a Perriwigg and new Suit, that he might pass undiscovered, he hides the rest there, and brings the horse into a By-Lane neer *Holloway*, and there leaves him ryed, and comes back to *London*: in the meane time a friend of the Country-mans that dwelt in *Drury-lane* that was very well acquainted at the Inn, comes thither, hears the sad story of his Loss, and goes homeward, where neer *Drury-Lane* he spies this fellow already disguised in a Gentile Wigg, yet not so much but that he knew him, and caused him to be Apprehended; before the Justice he forthwith confessed the fact, and told how he had disposed of the horse and money, which were recovered all but about 10*l*. which he had spent. The Jury at first brought him in, *Not Guilty*, as supposing it could not be Felony, because the Horse was delivered by the Owner into the Oastlers Custody, But upon the advice of the Court, that he had no such special custody committed to him, and the Witnesses better explaining his former Testimony, they amended their Verdict, and found him Guilty.

A person was indicted for robbing a Woman in the Evening near *Thisfleeth*, who testified that as she was walking two men came behind her and one of them clapping his hands over her eyes plucked her to the ground whilst the other robb'd her, and then

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muffling her Hood over her face, fled. A Shepheard hearing her cry out, making to her rescue, savv them at a distance and pursued one of them near half a mile, of whom he gave a description so like the prisoner at Bar that he was apprehended and presented upon suspition. But no direct or sufficient proof appearing, and the fellow producing several to speak in his behalf, he was acquitted, so also vvas another, upon the same score that stood indicted for stealing of broad cloath out of a West Country Carriers VVagon.

There vvere three more arraigned for Murther : That's to say, A Souldier for killing a man in a fray in St. Gilese's, and two vvomen for destroying their Bastard Children, vvith several others for felonies, petty Larcernies, and other offences too tedious here to relate.

FINIS.

